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NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 SP-02 NEA-06 L-02

AF-04 IO-03 DRC-01 /069 W

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R 260605Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7061

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9908

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: GENERAL LES KOSEM'S LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AT KUALA
LUMPUR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

1. AT OUR MEETING JULY 25, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET
GAVE ME ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS COPY OF GENERAL LES
KOSEM'S REPORT ON THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONFERENCE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR FROM 21-25 JUNE WHICH
HE ATTENDED AS HEAD OF A THREE-MAN DELEGATION OF
KHMER MOSLEMS. THE REPORT DETAILS THE ACTIVITIES AND
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS THE
RESULTS OF LES KOSEM'S OWN LOBBYING EFFORTS. HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE LATTER FOLLOW.

2. JUNE 20. KHMER DELEGATION HAD LUNCH WITH DR. ALI
EL-TARIKI OF LIBYA. THE LATTER RECALLED THAT HE HAD
BEEN EXPECTING GENERAL LES KOSEM TO VISIT TRIPOLI,
ALONG WITH MR. ABDUL HOUSSIN, SINCE JANUARY 1974.
DR. EL-TARIKI ADDED THAT PRESIDENT QUADAFI HAD ASKED
HIM TO MEET WITH GENERAL LES KOSEM DURING HIS ASIAN
TRIP. DR. EL-TARIKI ASKED LES KOSEM TO VISIT LIBYA
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY IN SEPTEMBER OR
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ON AFRICA DAY IN AUGUST. GENERAL LES KOSEM ACCEPTED

THE INVITATION. AFTER HEARING LES KOSEM'S EXPLANATION OF EVENTS IN THE GKR DURING AND AFTER MARCH 18, 1970, DR. EL-TARIKI STATED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE INDO-CHINESE COMMUNISTS WERE COMMITTING AGRESSION AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC. LATER IN THE DAY THE KHMER DELEGATION MET WITH THE LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ABDEL ATIL OBEIDI. ON THIS OCCASION LES KOSEM EXPLAINED EVENTS IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC, AS HE HAD EARLIER TO DR. EL-TARIKI. THE MALAYSIAN INTERIOR MINISTER, MR. TAN SRI GHAZALI, ALSO JOINED THIS CONVERSATION. THE LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT DR. EL-TARIKI WOULD VISIT THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

3. JUNE 21. DR. EL-TARIKI PRESENTED GENERAL LES KOSEM TO SEVERAL ISLAMIC DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE UAE, SENEGAL, KUWAIT, YEMEN, SYRIA, UGANDA INDONEIS, MALAYSIA AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD ORGANIZATION.

4. JUNE 22. THE KHMER DELEGATION CALLED ON MOUSTAFA CISSE, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS OF SENEGAL AND AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, SYRIA, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. GENERAL LES KOSEM EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR CISSE THE SITUATION IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC, POINTING OUT THAT IF THE REPUBLICAN REGIME FALLS FROM POWER THE COMMUNISTS WILL GOVERN THE COUNTRY AND NOT SIHANOUK. AMBASSADOR CISSE SHOWED SURPRISE IN LEARNING THAT SIHANOUK NO LONGER REPRESENTS ANYTHING IN CAMBODIA.

5. JUNE 23. A MEMBER OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED GENERAL LES KOSEM OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF MALAYSIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THE KHMER DELEGATION CALLED ON MOHAMMED SAFWAT SAQQI AMINI, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION AND MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS OF SAUDI ARABIA. AFTER HEARING LES KOSEM'S PRESENTATION, MR. AMINI ASKED THAT THE KHMER DELEGATION FORMULATE URGENTLY ITS REQUEST TO THE CONFERENCE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE INDO-CHINESE COMMUNISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO LIQUIDATE

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THE ISLAMIC RELIGION IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. MR AMINI SUBSEQUENTLY INVITED GENERAL LES KOSEM TO VISIT THE WORLD ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GENERAL ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION. THE KHMER DELEGATION HAD A VERY FRUITFUL MEETING WITH THE SYRIAN DELEGATION, WHICH INVITED THE GENERAL TO VISIT ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTERS AND TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OTHER ISLAMIC LEADERS IN SYRIA.

6. JUNE 24. THE KHMER DELEGATION CALLED ON DR. IZZUD IBRAHIM, CULTURAL COUNSELOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UAE. DR. KBRAHIM INVITED GENERAL LES KOSEM TO VISIT THE UAE AFTER HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. DR. IBRAHIM OFFERED TO PROVIDE AIRLINE TICKETS FOR THE KHMER DELEGATES.

7. JUNE 25. DELEGATION MET WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, MR. TAN SRI GHAZALI, WHO RECOMMENDED THAT THE KHMER DELEGATION CALL ON THE VICE PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT, WHO WAS HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. THE KHMER DELEGATION ATTENDED THE CLOSING BANQUET OF THE CONFERENCE AND SAT WITH THE DELEGATES OF UGANDA, SENEGAL, MAURITANIA AND MALAYSIA. THE UGANDAN DELEGATES, CHIEF KHADHI ABDULRAZAQ MATOVU, AND ARMED FORCES HEAD SHEIKH LT. COLONEL KHAMIS, INVITED GENERAL LES KOSEM TO VISIT UGANDA. HE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION.

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 SP-02 NEA-06 L-02

AF-04 IO-03 DRC-01 /069 W
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R 260605Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
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8. JUNE 26. THE KHMER DELEGATION CALLED AGAIN ON DR. MOUSTAFA CISSE OF SENEGAL, WHO ASKED FOR DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD ASSIST HIM TO MAKE A REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNISTS IN CAMBODIA, AND ON THE NON-REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF SIHANOUK.

DR. CISSE INVITED GENERAL LES KOSEM TO ATTEND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER IN ABIDJAN. THE GENERAL ACCEPTED THE INVITATION.

9. ON THE SAME DAY, A MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL REPORTED TO THE KHMER DELEGATION A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER AND ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. BOUTEFLIKA. THE LATTER TOOK THE POSITION THAT CAMBODIA IS SIHANOUK AND SIHANOUK IS CAMBODIA. THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER RETORTED THAT SIHANOUK NO LONGER REPRESENTS ANYTHING IN CAMBODIA, AND THAT IF LON NOL FALLS IT WILL BE THE COMMUNISTS WHO WILL TAKE OVER. THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT CAMBODIA OWING TO ITS DISTANCE FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY.

10. GENERAL LES KOSEM MET WITH THE VICE PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT, TO WHOM HE EXPLAINED THE SITUATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOSLEMS IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THE GENERAL ASKED EGYPTIAN AID IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KHMER STUDENTS DESIRING TO PURSUE STUDIES IN CAIRO. HE ALSO ASKED FOR EGYPTIAN SUPPORT IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THE EGYPTIAN VICE PRIME MINISTER INVITED LES KOSEM TO VISIT EGYPT, AN INVITATION THE GENERAL ACCEPTED. THE VICE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PROMISED TO PUT THE GENERAL IN CONTACT WITH PERSONALITIES OF OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AFTER HIS VISIT TO EGYPT.

11. GENERAL LES KOSEM'S REPORT MAKES THREE RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE END:

- (A) PREPARATION OF A BROCHURE DESCRIBING THE TREATMENT OF THE KHMER MOSLEMS BY THE COMMUNISTS;
- (B) MAKE CONTACT WITH ALL THE DELEGATES OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ATTENDED THE 5TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE;
- (C) URGENTLY SEND THE GOVERNMENTAL AND RELIGIOUS DELEGATION (OF THE GKR) TO SAUDI ARABIA.

12. COPIES OF GENERAL LES KOSEM'S REPORT ARE BEING POUCHED TO EA/LC, INR/DRR/ROA AND EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR BUT ARE STRICTLY FOR INTERNAL USE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, LOBBYING, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM09908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740203-0244
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740714/aaaaaltn.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL LES KOSEM'S LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AT KUALA LUMPUR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, CB, (LES KOSEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005